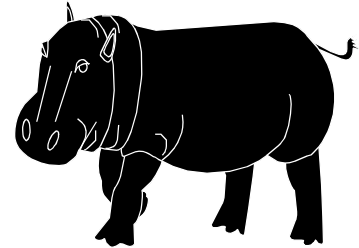




CITES UPDATE #67
December 1998



Dear CITES Cooperator:

We would like to inform you of the following:

COP11 SCHEDULED: On November 17, 1998, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Management Authority (OMA) received CITES Secretariat Notification to the Parties No. 1998/55, entitled "Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties." This Notification announces the site and dates of the 11th regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP11).

COP11 will be held April 10-20, 2000, at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. It will be hosted by the CITES Secretariat. Any proposed amendments to the CITES Appendices, proposed resolutions, or other documents submitted for consideration at COP11 must be communicated to the Secretariat by November 12, 1999 (150 days prior to the start of the meeting).

Copies of this Notification are available upon request from OMA.

41ST MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE SCHEDULED: On December 1, 1998, OMA received CITES Secretariat Notification to the Parties No. 1998/58, entitled "Forty-first Meeting of the Standing Committee." This Notification announces the site and dates of the 41st meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (SC41).

SC41 will be held February 8-12, 1999, in Geneva, Switzerland, at the following address:

United Nations Office at Geneva
Palais des Nations
ROOM XXI
8-14, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Genève 10
Switzerland

Attached to this Notification is a list of hotels in which rooms have been pre-booked for the participants in SC41. The Secretariat will provide the Parties with the provisional agenda and copies of the working documents for the meeting shortly.

Copies of this Notification are available upon request from OMA.

15TH MEETING OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE SCHEDULED: On December 1, 1998, OMA received CITES Secretariat Notification to the Parties No. 1998/59, entitled "15th Meeting of the Animals Committee." This Notification announces the site and dates of the 15th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee (AC15).

AC15 will be held July 5-9, 1999, in Madagascar. Observers may participate in this meeting at the invitation of the Chairman of the Animals Committee. The Chairman may be contacted at the following address:

Mr. R.W.G. Jenkins
Environment Australia
P.O. Box 636
CANBERRA, ACT 2601
Australia
Tel: (+ 612) 625 00 392
Fax: (+ 612) 625 00 243
E-mail: hank.jenkins@dest.gov.au

The Secretariat will provide the Parties with additional details in early 1999. Copies of this Notification are available upon request from OSA.

9TH MEETING OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE SCHEDULED: On December 1, 1998, OMA received CITES Secretariat Notification to the Parties No. 1998/60, entitled "Ninth Meeting of the Plants Committee." This Notification announces the site and dates of the 9th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee (PC9).

PC9 will be held June 7-11, 1999, in Darwin, Australia. Observers may participate in this meeting at the invitation of the Chairman of the Plants Committee. The Chairman may be contacted at the following address:

Prof. Dra. Margarita Clemente Muñoz
Jardín Botánico de Córdoba
Avda. De Linneo s/n
E-14004 CORDOBA
Spain
Tel: (+ 34 957) 20 00 77
Fax: (+ 34 957) 29 53 33
E-mail: cr1clmum@uco.es

The Secretariat will provide the Parties with additional details in early 1999. Copies of this Notification are available upon request from OSA.

Please contact OSA if you have any questions about the Animals or Plants Committee meetings. Agendas for both meetings should be available in Spring, 1999.

NEW CITES SECRETARIAT NOTIFICATIONS: OMA recently received CITES Secretariat Notifications to the Parties Nos. 1998/55-1998/62. Listed below are summaries of the Notifications that we feel might be of interest to our CITES cooperators. We would appreciate it if any CITES cooperators who request copies from OMA would please limit their requests to specific Notifications:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1998/55 | <u>Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties</u>
Summary: See item above regarding this Notification. |
| 1998/56 | <u>Export Quotas for 1998: Corrections and Additions</u>
Summary: This Notification includes several corrections and additions to the comprehensive list of Parties' export quotas established for calendar year 1998 for specimens of species included in the CITES Appendices. The comprehensive list was provided in Notification No. 1998/36. |
| 1998/57 | <u>Submission of Nationally Established Export Quotas for 1999</u>
Summary: In this Notification, the Secretariat announces plans to issue a Notification in early 1999 on export quotas for calendar year 1999, and requests that the Parties provide details of 1999 export quotas to the Secretariat by 31 December 1998 at the latest. |
| 1998/58 | <u>Forty-first Meeting of the Standing Committee</u>
Summary: See item above regarding this Notification. |
| 1998/59 | <u>15th Meeting of the Animals Committee</u>
Summary: See item above regarding this Notification. |
| 1998/60 | <u>Ninth Meeting of the Plants Committee</u>
Summary: See item above regarding this Notification. |
| 1998/61 | <u>Export Quotas for 1998: Additions</u>
Summary: This Notification includes several additions to the comprehensive list of Parties' export quotas established for calendar year 1998 for specimens of species included in the CITES Appendices. |
| 1998/62 | <u>Review of the CITES Appendices for Fauna</u>
Summary: In this Notification, the Animals Committee requests the Parties to provide the Secretariat with suggestions on species included in Appendix I or Appendix II that should be reviewed using the criteria contained in Resolution Conf. 9.24. The Secretariat has requested that this information be provided by March 31, 1999. Please contact OSA for further details. |

PRE-CONVENTION CAVIAR: On December 17, 1998, OMA received a fax transmission from the CITES Secretariat entitled "Conservation of and Trade in Sturgeon." In this fax the Secretariat acknowledges that the false declaration of stocks of caviar as having been acquired prior to April 1, 1998 (the pre-Convention date), is a means of circumventing the controls of CITES. The Secretariat proposes to issue a Notification to the Parties recommending that no declaration of pre-Convention caviar should be accepted after April 1, 1999, and that any shipments after that date that claim to contain caviar acquired before April 1, 1998, should be investigated. In its fax, the Secretariat asks several Parties, including the United States, to provide comments on this proposal by January 31, 1999.

We ask those CITES cooperators who wish to comment on the Secretariat's proposal, to please send such comments to OMA by January 11, 1999.

Copies of the Secretariat's fax transmission are available upon request from OMA.

AZERBAIJAN JOINS CITES: The Secretariat has informed us that Azerbaijan acceded to CITES on November 23, 1998. It will enter into force as a CITES Party country on February 21, 1999, becoming the 145th Party.

EXPORTS OF CROCODILE SKINS TO MEXICO: The CITES Management Authority of Mexico has requested the Secretariat to inform all countries trading in crocodile skins with Mexico that, effective September 1, 1998, Mexico does not allow imports of crocodile skins if the tag numbers are not indicated either on the export permit/reexport certificate or on a separate sheet (stamped and signed) issued by the exporting country.

UNITED STATES TAKES INNOVATIVE ACTION TO SAVE IMPERILED RHINOS AND TIGERS: On November 6, 1998, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued a news release announcing that, on October 30, 1998, President Clinton signed into law the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1998, which reauthorizes and amends the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994. It includes an important new product labeling provision with the goal of stemming the sale of items labeled as containing rhino or tiger parts. The provision gives Service law enforcement officers a new tool for protecting rhinos and tigers against commercial exploitation. This legislation supports other ongoing conservation measures such as the U.S. Endangered Species Act and CITES.

Copies of the news release are available upon request from OMA or on our Website at <http://www.fws.gov/r9extaff/pr9866.html>.

U.S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES INDICTMENTS IN MARINE SPECIES SMUGGLING SCAM: On November 12, 1998, the U.S. Department of Justice issued a press release announcing that a Federal grand jury has indicted two individuals, a Florida importer and a Philippine exporter, of conspiracy to smuggle protected corals and seashells into the United States. The two individuals charged are Petros "Pete" Leventis, of Greek Island Imports, Inc., and Esther T. Flores, owner and operator of Esther Enterprises, a corals and seashells exporting business located in Cebu City, Philippines. This is the believed to be the first Federal criminal felony case brought against alleged smugglers of internationally protected

corals and seashells and involves such rare and protected species as organ-pipe corals, feather corals, bear's paw clams, and trumpet seashells.

Copies of the press release are available upon request from OMA.

Sincerely,

Teiko Saito, Chief
Office of Management Authority

Dr. Susan S. Lieberman, Chief
Office of Scientific Authority

All documents referred to above are available on request from the Office of Management Authority. Address correspondence to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Room 700, Arlington, VA 22203. Telephone (703): Office of Management Authority (OMA) 358-2095, Fax 358-2298; Office of Scientific Authority (OSA) 358-1708, Fax 358-2276; Office of Law Enforcement (LE) 358-1949; Fax 358-2271. Address E-mail requests to: r9oma_cites@mail.fws.gov (for OMA) or r9osa@mail.fws.gov (for OSA).